

Remarks

Claims 11-30 are pending in this application. Claims 11, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 26, and 28-30 are rejected. Claims 12-14, 16, 20, 23-25, and 27 are objected to.

By way of this response, claims 1 and 22 are amended and claims 12, 17, 19, 23, 28, and 30 have been cancelled.

Drawings

Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are submitted in reply to the Office Action to avoid abandonment of the application. Figure 1 is amended to include the annotation "Prior Art" as suggested by the Examiner. Replacement Figure 1 is included herein.

Claim Objections

Claims 12-21 are rejected because of improper dependency. The claims have been corrected to depend from independent claim 11.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 17, 19, 28, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 17, 19, 28, and 30 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 26, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ferrari (US Publication No. 2004/0107824).

Claim 11 has been amended to recite the limitations of objected claim 12 in independent form, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable. Consequently, amended claim 11 is not anticipated by Ferrari and is in allowable form. Claims 13-16, 18 and 20-21, which depend from claim 11, are also in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 has been amended to recite the limitations of objected claim 23 in independent form which the Examiner indicated would be allowable. Consequently, amended claim 22 is not anticipated by Ferrari and is in allowable form. Claims 24-27 which depend from claim 22, are also in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12-14, 16, 20, 23-25, and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As indicated above, independent claim 11 has been rewritten to include the limitations of allowable claim 12. Also, independent claim 22 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 23. As such, all of the pending claims are placed in allowable form.

Conclusion

Applicant has made a genuine effort to respond to each of the Examiner's objections and rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicant believes that all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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